

TOC H JOURNAL

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Communications for next month must reach the Editor not later than the 15th of this month.

THE FOUR POINTS IN FOUR WORDS

The "Four Points of our Compass," the original setting forth of the aims of Toc H (see December JOURNAL) has long been summarised in the brief phrases "To think fairly, to love widely, to witness humbly, to build bravely." TUBBY, in a letter written in March to one of the oldest and most faithful members of Toc H, on board H.M.S. Egmont at Malta, reduces the Four Points to their "lowest terms" —four words. We quote from the letter. (A report of a visit to Toc H Malta appears on p. 127.)

DON'T have a single doubt but that we are proud of Toc H Malta at home, and fully realise that your list of jobs cannot be quite of the same kind that are all round us here. The spirit of the Family is, as you say, the solid aim behind all manner of manifestations. Let me try and put it briefly like this, even concentrating the Four Points into four words:—

"Make"

First, Toc H would have its members *make good*. By this I mean that the old British spirit of enterprise was never more needed than to-day; half-heartedness in commerce and industry, slackness and carelessness in conduct, intolerance and apathy in outlook, are deadly enemies to the spirit of a people. In the New Testament also, idleness and aimlessness are condemned as incompatible with Christian character; and if Toc H is to succeed in its task its members must set an example, without priggishness, of duty and perseverance in their ordinary lives.

"Do"

Secondly, Toc H must *do good*. There stand the words at the beginning of the Church's history as the briefest biography of Our Lord's own life, "He went about doing good." He missed no opportunity. He turned back from no necessity. The whole habit of His outlook was a longing to help, and a life of patience with innumerable, and often undeserving, demands upon His strength. So it truly comes to pass that the common conception of Christianity has still much to teach us. The Christian who does not try to put others before self is scarcely a Christian at all, however orthodox his views. Moreover, even gifts of money may easily become very poor alternatives to the personal service which our Master taught. So in Toc H we blokes just try to do a spot of good as often as we can and as quietly as may be; knowing, when all is said and done, that it is not the good we have done to ourselves, but the good we have tried to do for others that we shall think upon most gladly.

Lastly, Toc H learns from the Gospels that doing good is the highest of all arts, and therefore the most difficult. We have got to take ourselves in hand, and learn, however laboriously, to *be good*. It is at this point that many men shy off, because they have come to connect these two short words with all manner of prohibitions and hypocrisies. If only they will think again, remembering their mothers and some men they have known, they will come to see that *being good* is a source of joy and strength without which life itself would become intolerable.

Week after week now, all the world round, a thousand groups of men stand round their Rushlights and their Lamps and watch the tiny flame that all the darkness cannot succeed in extinguishing. These are the Davy Lamps which lead our ever-growing Brotherhood into the pits and craters where their voluntary duty takes them on God's errands. But every life is a lamp in Our Lord's eyes, and since the world began His spirit has dwelt in it through the lives of those of every race and people, of every age and outlook, wise and simple, who have known this one thing—a longing to be light-bearers. Their souls He has enkindled with His own clear flame like stars in the immeasurable sky.

TUBBY.

THE NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS CAMP

THE importance of the Schools Service Bureau in the life of Toc H is being more and more recognised overseas, as at home. In New Zealand this work has been established on a regular footing for several years and A.B. ("Ben") Malyon of Wellington Branch, as Schools Organiser for Toc H in the Dominion, is in constant touch with Hubert Secretan, Schools Secretary at H.Q. The Schools Camp in the Summer (which is, of course, English Winter) is a regular feature of Wellington's work, and has provided notes and pictures twice before in this JOURNAL (see April, 1927 and May, 1928). We have again received a short report of the last Camp from Ben Malyon, with some snapshots (see Plate IV, facing page 139). The Camp was again held at Oyster Bay, Picton, off Tory Channel, a beautiful spot where a permanent camp site has been given to Toc H (see May JOURNAL, 1928, p. 209), from December 27 to January 10. The party, which consisted of boys from secondary schools and orphanages—a fine mixture—backed up by Toc H Rovers, was met in Tory Channel by the whaling launch *Oria*, which took them ashore from the steamer. Mr. and Mrs. Heberley gave them tea on landing, at their homestead, and twice during the days which followed invited them there for musical evenings. Other local residents also entertained them at their houses, and one lent them the launch *Fern*. Happy days were spent in fishing and boating; excursions were made to Cherry Bay, Te Pangu, Picton, Resolution Bay, Te Awaiti and Ngaruru Bay, in the launches *Oria*, *Crescent* and *Fern*; three of the party tramped to Port Underwood, and four others climbed Mount Tarakawa. Ben Malyon (who was camp commandant) writes: "The Camp was a great success, and we are getting more support. This year we were able to arrange for the steamer to stop off Oyster Bay, so that the whaling launch could come alongside and take us off, thus saving about 32 miles up and down the Sound and the expense. The number of campers is slowly increasing, though we do not aim at having more than fifty, as we believe that small camps are preferable to large ones. We see little social service in simply giving poor boys a holiday. We believe that the 'follow-up' work is the most important part of the job. In camp we are able to find out more about the boys, and as they are mostly those about to leave school and start work, we are able to help them." The N.Z. Schools Department have also started a magazine, *The Beacon*.

THE NEW LAMPS

THE Lamps of the new Branches, promoted since the last Lamplighting on December 3, 1927, which will be brought to H.R.H. the Patron to be first lit on April 27, are fifty-six in number. The dedications which are known up to the time of going to press are as follows :—

EASTBOURNE (July 4, 1928).—The EASTBOURNE BRANCH LAMP : In memory of the ELDER BRETHREN of all Nations.

FOLKESTONE (July 4, 1928).—The WILLIAM HOLMES LAMP : With proud thanksgiving and in loving memory of WILLIAM Z. HOLMES, Sapper, Royal Engineers. Loos, 2.10.1915.
(Given by his brother.)

WEST MOORS (July 4, 1928).—The WEST MOORS LAMP : In memory of the MEN of West Moors who fell in the Great War.

WHITSTABLE (July 4, 1928).—The NAT ETHERIDGE LAMP : In memory of ALAN (" NAT ") ETHERIDGE, who joined the Elder Brethren, 31.3.1928.
(Given by his family.)

YEOVIL (July 4, 1928).—The BOYLE LAMP : In memory of MONTGOMERIE BOYLE, T.D., Major, R.A.S.C., who died 1919 as the result of services in France, Egypt and Palestine.
(Given by his family.)

CAPETOWN CENTRAL (September 19, 1928).—(Lamp not yet dedicated).

COALVILLE (September 19, 1928).—The STABLE LAMP : In memory of the FALLEN of Coalville and district, 1914-1918.

CLACTON-ON-SEA (September 19, 1928).—The FREDDY COLEMAN LAMP : In memory of FRED CREIGHTON COLEMAN, Lt., The Norfolk Regt. Vimy, St. George's Day, 1917.

DOVER (September 19, 1928).—The DOVER MINESWEEPERS AND TRAWLER PATROL LAMP : In memory of 295 OFFICERS and MEN who lost their lives, 1914-1918.
(Given by W. Van Sittard Howard, Capt., R.N.)

ESTON (September 19, 1928).—The RONALD WILLIAMS LAMP : In memory of RONALD WILLIAMS, M.C., Lt., Royal Engineers. Merville, 12.4.1918 ; and of L. C. WILLIAMS, Schoolmaster, Eston, 1885-1924.
(Given by Mrs. Williams.)

FELIXSTOWE (September 19, 1928).—

GODALMING (September 19, 1928).—HENRY'S LAMP : In memory of HENRY CHARLES CLARKE, Lt., D.C.L.I., attd. R.F.C. Tilloy, 6.7.1917 ; and of the ELDER BRETHREN of Godalming.
(Given by his family and the Branch.)

HARBORNE (September 19, 1928).—The JOHN LAWRENCE LAMP : In memory of JOHN WILFRID DABBS, M.M., 2nd Lt., 1st A.I.F. France, 6.9.1916 ; and of LAWRENCE ERNEST DABBS, L/Cpl., 1/1st Worcestershire Yeomanry. Palestine, 15.11.1917.

KESTON (September 19, 1928).—The NEPHEWS' LAMP : In memory of JOHN SYDNEY ALLEN STONEHAM, Sergt., 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles, Festubert, 2.6.1916 ; of PHILIP ALLEN STONEHAM, L.Cpl., Lord Strathcona's Horse, missing after the First Battle of Ypres, 24.5.1915 ; of GREVILLE COPE STONEHAM, 2nd Lt., Royal Berks Regt., Somme, 10.11.1916 ; of ALLEN BARCLAY, B.Sc., 2nd Lt., Royal Engineers, Givenchy, 24.4.1915 ; of KENNETH BARCLAY, Pte., London Scottish, Zillebeke, 12.11.1914 ; and of ERIC HENRY LLOYD CLARK, 2nd Lt., R.F.A., Somme, 1.7.1916.
(Given by their uncle.)

WEDNESFIELD (September 19, 1928).—The ARTHUR LANE LAMP : In memory of ARTHUR EDWARD LANE, born at Wednesfield, died at Newcastle, N.S.W., 4.4.1928.

WOLVERHAMPTON (September 19, 1928).—The PIRIE LAMP : In memory of JOHN TULLOCH and WILLIAM PIRIE, killed in action during the Great War.

BRIDLINGTON (November 7, 1928).—The BRIDLINGTON LAMP : In memory of our ELDER BRETHREN.

GREENOCK (November 7, 1928).—In memory of the MEN of Greenock.

MELTON MOWBRAY (November 7, 1928).—The POWELL LAMP : In memory of LIONEL LEWIS POWELL, Colonel commanding the Leicestershire Regt. (Volunteers). Died 29.6.1912
(Given by his widow.)

PORT TALBOT (November 7, 1928).—The RUPERT LAMP : In memory of RUPERT HALLOWES V.C., M.C. Ypres.

(Given by the late Sir Sydney Byass, Bt.)

SCUNTHORPE (September 19, 1928).—The JOHN SEWELL LAMP : In memory of our ELDER BRETHREN, and especially of JOHN SEWELL, our own Elder Brother.

(Given by the Branch.)

SHOREHAM AND LANCING (November 7, 1928).—The FRANK WARD LAMP : In memory of FRANK WARD and the ELDER BRETHREN of Shoreham.

BELGRAVIA, Transvaal (December 3, 1928).—The WILLIAM VINCENT LAMP : In memory of WILLIAM VINCENT, Pte., 3rd South African Infantry. Missing, Gauche Wood, 23.3.1918.
(Given by his son.)

BEVERLEY (December 3, 1928).—In memory of the ELDER BRETHREN of Beverley and district.

(Given by the people of Beverley.)

CARLISLE (December 3, 1928).—The MURIEL LAMP : In memory of S. H. F. MURIEL, Capt., 1st Border Regt. Gallipoli, 30.4.1915.

(Given by his sister.)

GLOUCESTER (December 3, 1928).—The AYSLEY PULLAN LAMP : In memory of JACK PULLAN, Flight-Lt. ; WILL PULLAN, Lce/Cpl., France and Jerusalem, December, 1917 ; and of all the ELDER BRETHREN of Gloucester.

(Given by Mr. Dimmer.)

HIGHGATE (December 3, 1928).—EVERYMAN'S LAMP : In memory of the ELDER BRETHREN of Highgate. "We will remember them."

HILLARY, Natal (December 3, 1928).—The WILLIAM AND ARTHUR STAINBANK LAMP : In memory of WILLIAM DERING STAINBANK, 2nd Lt., R.F.A., 8.4.1916 ; and of ARTHUR REEVE STAINBANK, 2nd Lt., R.F.A. Ypres, 20.7.1917.

KENDAL (December 3, 1928).—The JOHN WESTON LAMP : In memory of Col. Sir JOHN WESTON, beloved by Westmorland, who stepped forward in front of us, 19.9.1926.

(Given by H. Leigh Groves.)

MORECAMBE (December 3, 1928).—The STOCKS HAMMOND LAMP: In memory of the GLORIOUS DEAD of Morecambe and Heysham who fell in the Great War.

(Given by the brother of Stocks Hammond, Organist of Toronto Cathedral, died 18.6.1897.)

MORPETH (December 3, 1928).—The MORPETH LAMP: In memory of our own ELDER BRETHREN, 1914-1918.

PENZANCE (December 3, 1928).—The PENZANCE LAMP: In memory of W. T. M. BOLITHO, Lt., 19th Royal Hussars, Chateau Hooge, 24.5.1915; and the ELDER BRETHREN of Penzance.

PETWORTH (December 3, 1928).—The PETWORTH LAMP: In memory of the ELDER BRETHREN of Petworth.

(Given by their fellow-townsmen.)

POYNTON (December 3, 1928).—The HOLDEN LAMP: In memory of GEORGE ARTHUR HOLDEN, Pte., 1/6th Batt. Manchester Regt. Gallipoli, 4.6.1915.

(Given by his sister.)

PRETORIA (December 3, 1928).—The PRETORIA LAMP: In memory of the ELDER BRETHREN of Pretoria and District.

(Given by the Branch and friends.)

ST. ALBANS (December 3, 1928).—

SEDBERGH (December 3, 1928).—

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD (December 3, 1928).—The ARTHUR EDWARD WOOLLEY LAMP: In memory of ARTHUR EDWARD WOOLLEY, Pte., Sherwood Foresters. St. Quentin, 7.10.1918.

BRIDPORT (February 6, 1929).—The HAYNES ROBERT POWELL LAMP: In memory of H. R. POWELL, Lt. Richebourg, Festubert, 20.5.1915.

(Given by Mr. Buchanan Powell.)

DULWICH (February 6, 1929).—The JIM KELSON LAMP: In memory of GEORGE JAMES KELSON, Rfm., L.R.B. Les Bœufs, 9.10.1916.

EDMONTON (February 6, 1929).—

GUILDFORD (February 6, 1929).—The FRANK MAXWELL LAMP: In memory of FRANK MAXWELL, V.C., Brig.-General, 27th Lowland Brigade. Ypres, 21.9.1917.

(Given by Mrs. H. Powell.)

LEIGHTON BUZZARD (February 6, 1929).—The MARTYN ROGERS LAMP: In memory of the Reverend HENRY MARTYN CHESELDEN ROGERS, A.K.C., of Tristan da Cunha. Died at Leighton Buzzard, 14.5.1926.

(Given by the Branch.)

MONTREAL (February 6, 1929).—The LANCELOT HAGGARD LAMP: In memory of RIDER LANCELOT HAGGARD, Capt., Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Passchendaele, 17.10.1917.

(Given by his father and uncle.)

PIETERMARITZBURG City, Natal (February 6, 1929).—

PIETERMARITZBURG Central, Natal (February 6, 1929).—

STAVELEY (February 6, 1929).—The WILLIAM HENRY CHALLINER LAMP: In memory of HARRY CHALLINER and all from Staveley who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918.

UMTALI, Rhodesia (February 6, 1929).—

UXBRIDGE (February 6, 1929).—DICK'S LAMP: In memory of RICHARD HAROLD JOHN ARCHBOLD, Died 26.4.1928. *(Given by his brothers.)*

WALTHAMSTOW (February 6, 1929).—The WALTHAMSTOW LAMP: In memory of the Walthamstow ELDER BRETHREN, 1914-1918.

BELLINGHAM (March, 1929).—The GUS HARRIS LAMP: In memory of A. J. HARRIS, Lt., 14th Australian Imperial Force. Bapaume, 12.4.1917.

BIRKENHEAD (March, 1929).—The ALEXANDER JOHNSTON LAMP: In memory of ALEXANDER F. JOHNSTON. *(Given by Mr. James Johnston.)*

FULHAM (March, 1929).—

LANCASTER (March, 1929).—The RED ROSE LAMP: In memory of the ELDER BRETHREN of Bowerham School.

MOOSE JAW, Mid-West Canada (March, 1929).—The WILLIAM ROBERT GREEN LAMP: In memory of WILLIAM ROBERT GREEN. Lens, 3.6.1917.

TWICKENHAM (March, 1929).—The SCALES LAMP: In memory of Capt. SCALES.

Other Lamp Dedications

EDINBURGH, the last of the original forty Branches which received their Lamps at the first Lamplighting in 1922 to have its Lamp dedicated, has now gained the Scottish name for which it has been waiting—The JAMES CLARK LAMP: In memory of JAMES CLARK, C.B., Commanding 9th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Hooge, near Ypres, 10.5.1915.

Padre Charles Warr (Edinburgh) who was with Col. James Clark when he was killed, wrote of him: "From the north to the south there was lamentation in Scotland. It is long since any man called forth such manifestations of sympathy and universal admiration. But great men are not as the sands of the sea. And in this generation it is doubtful if there will arise in the capital of Scotland a figure which can ever replace his, whose whole life was untiring labour for others and one long series of ungrudging self-sacrifice for his fellows." (*The Unseen Host*, first published in 1916, reprinted 1928.)

LIVERPOOL in 1922 received the JACK MOSS LAMP, but when Windermere Branch acquired its present fine headquarters and found itself meeting in the actual bedroom at "Ellerthwaite" in which Jack Moss was born, it was arranged to transfer the Lamp bearing his name to his home. Liverpool Branch therefore gave a new Lamp for their own use:—The MARINERS' LAMP: In memory of ALL SEAMEN from Liverpool who gave their lives in the Great War.

A Branch scribe writes:—"Liverpool is but of mushroom growth—but it has its civic pride and is a port of no mean standing in the Empire. During the War we had our soldiers, but we also had our men at sea, the sailors who brought and safeguarded the food supplies of England. To them we dedicate our Lamp, to the dead, the maimed, the living; to the gunners and marines aboard men-of-war; to the submarine chaser and minesweeper men; to the oil-tank hands and others in the *little* jobs, to whom no thought is given; to the crews of the fishing smacks that brought in warning of submarines without; to the firemen below awaiting death, fearing the hiss of steam but sticking to their posts—no hope of life for them, but duty must be done; to the sailors of the merchant service, crossing the bar undaunted, despite the mines outside; to the many who did unknown and unrecorded deeds—the life-belt taken off and given to another; to the men who pushed out the life-boats and stayed behind to perish in the ice-cold water. To all mariners, then, we dedicate our Lamp, and pray that we, in our lives, may prove worthy of its presence in our midst."

TOC H IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

As announced in the December JOURNAL (p. 508), PAUL SLESSOR (Keston) was due to visit Toc H in Malta in the New Year. He now gives a lively account of his experiences. Two pictures, taken during his visit, will be found on Plate III, facing page 138.

THE old P. & O. liner *Kaisar-I-Hind* and a rough sea in the Bay of Biscay. I'm a second-class passenger (because there's no third), and she's a coal-driven ship, so cinders in the eye is a common complaint to those few who are not indulging in the fashionable pastime of "Community Sicking." However, I'm a jolly good sailor, and this is the first time during my many voyages that the Bay has let me down, or up. There's a lot of both.

After the Bay comes a few hours at Gib., but no time to spread the Toc H propaganda; merely a drive round the Rock and back to the ship. By this time I am generally known as "Major Toc H," and the Skipper suggests that I should tell people, both first and second class, something about Toc H. At 5.30 p.m., therefore, to the First Class Saloon. Some forty or fifty of both sexes reading and writing, and a deathly silence. No one makes a move, so taking my Toc H courage in both hands, so to speak, I shout out, "If anyone is interested in hearing the story of Toc H, will they kindly gather round the piano, but if those who are reading or writing wish to continue to do so, I can assure them that they won't disturb me." Some twenty-five people shyly and nervously approach to within hearing distance of me, and for forty minutes I tell the tale to a lot of icebergs, though I can see a few visibly melting as I go on with the old story. But, gee whiz, what a contrast in the second class lounge after dinner that evening! A hundred and fifty or so cheery souls of both sexes and all sizes, a real Toc H zoo, sitting real familiar, and warm and interested from the outset, and a bombardment of questions when I have finished speaking.

Thence to Algiers, but no time to land, and then across to Marseilles. Here there is a considerable English colony, where I hear that Toc H seed might be sown with advantage. We stop here a day to coal, etc., so I take a flying trip by the *rapide* along the French Riviera to Cannes and back in time for dinner. Then thirty-six hours to Malta, where we arrive at 8 p.m. on Sunday evening, and are immediately surrounded by R.N. ships' launches and *dysos* (local boats), bringing officers and other ranks of all services out to meet their wives and relations. Amusing and thrilling to watch them greeting their female relations, and one thinks: "What fine Toc H material there is among these topping officers and other ranks!" Am soon greeted by my naval offspring and his consort, and so to land in the *Eagle's* (Aircraft carrier) launch. The next day in the forenoon to see the town, or rather the principal districts, Valetta, Sliema and Floriana, which are divided by the Grand Harbour, where all the Battleships, Cruisers, and Aircraft Carriers lie, and Sliema Harbour, where the T.B. Flotillas lie. All vastly interesting and thrilling. In the afternoon to meet the Toc H Padre at the Union Club. This reminds me so much of Cologne in the 1921-1923 Occupation days, though here the Navy predominates hugely as there the Army used to. The same fine fellows, the same charming and pretty wives, and the same gossip. (The ladies' club room is known as "the snake pit," and the charming young spinsters who come out from England to stop with friends as "The Fishing Fleet.") In the evening to the Malta Group meeting, held under the C. of E. Cathedral, but, as it is not part of the Church, smoking, etc., can be indulged in. A great reception from a goodly gathering of civilians, sailors of various grades, soldiers, and airmen. The civilians including the Lieutenant-Governor, a new but intensely keen member. The arched architecture most appropriate. After "Light," I am set upon my hind legs, to tell them something about Toc H at home, and then have to answer, or try to answer, all sorts of questions, for it must be remembered that the Malta Group is isolated, in that its only sources of information about Toc H and its doings are the JOURNAL and very occasional visits to England. I am able, I hope, to put them wise on a number of points, and finish up an epoch-making evening (for me) by chat and excellent

black beer at the Club. During my stay, I go to two more meetings of the Group, and meet and make more friends in and about Toc H. All keen and anxious to learn, and full of ideas for future work. The Group is only some fifteen months old, and though no more "groping," has only lately begun to feel its feet. Many delightful chats with the Padre, Hon. Sec., Job-master, and other members at the Job's flat, and elsewhere, until the early hours of the mornings. Hospitality of the kindest all round is almost too much for me, especially in H.M.'s ships.

During the next three weeks am kept busy both Toc H'ally and socially, perhaps really one and the same thing almost, for wherever I go, be it to a regimental mess, a dance, a ship, or the aerodrome, someone or other always says words to the effect that "You're the Toc H bloke, aren't you?" I speak to goodly gatherings of all ranks of the Northampton, the Devons, the Royal Artillery, the Air Force, the Y.M.C.A., and in and about various of H.M.'s ships. A fine lot of chaps at a meeting of the *Ramillies* Group, though speaking is difficult midst the noise of dynamos and naval whatnots. I conclude my three weeks' strenuous work and play with an explanatory Toc H talk to a large and (from a Toc H point of view) unique collection of senior officers, Admirals (ordinary, vice and rear), Commanders, Captains, and Army and Air Force Officers, with their respective ladies in the Ball Room at Admiralty House, so kindly lent to me by the Admiral Commanding-in-Chief, Sir Frederick and Lady Field. Being all of one type, I have to take care to keep my language up to my No. 1 grade, especially in the presence of His Excellency the Governor and the Lieutenant-Governor and their ladies.

Toc H in Malta is, I think, unique, as the civilian community is minute, the Naval population enormous and transitory, and the Military and Air Force small, and local jobs consequently few and far between. Obviously, it is a wonderful distribution centre for the Toc H spirit, as the Service member penetrates to all parts of the Empire and to foreign countries, and there would appear to be a fine chance ultimately of establishing an Everyman's Club on the lines of the Old House in Pop. Altogether a wonderfully interesting and illuminating and amusing three weeks. And so home on a Commonwealth liner, whereon I was at once greeted by Ken Francis, once of Bromley Branch, and now of New Zealand. A one-class (third class) boat, and full of perfectly good and delightful Australians and a large number of Naval ratings, who came on board with me at Malta—the latter of marvellously good behaviour and appearance and a fine advertisement of the Royal Navy to our colonial brothers. A great Toc H meeting one night in the Social Hall, with many questions asked and great interest shown by our Australian friends.

A voyage without a ripple on the sea, and most entertaining, though incidentally I am not strong enough for Irish stew and steak and onions for breakfast.

And so to London, with my head full of thanks to, and great hopes for, Toc H in Malta.

P. A. SLESSOR.

AN ANCIENT HOUSE THAT CAME TO STAY

IN these days (which men of the shires often reckon are still so close to Flanders' days and in which they think of mustard gas at Bedford House what time the mustard pot is deftly slipped from the northern side of the menu to the southern) the telling of a romance (if in the last few words it be true after all), must have its springs deep down in some greater thing than figment. In what follows there may be nothing of the makings of a good fairy story, unless men prefer to read it as such; but the crowd in Toc H is so mixed that they may reckon what they will of it—a fairy story badly told or the working of some simple miracle.

At the latter end of 1926, Broxbourne and District Branch took up residence at a fair rental in an ancient house in Hoddesdon—ship timbers; wattle and daub; oaken floors. "Surely," said the knowing ones, "here is a house ideal for such an amazing thing as Toc H." And so



Above : The Broxbourne Toc H House and Smithy.

Below : The Upper Room.



"WELCOME!"

This is the view that meets you as you open the front door of the Toc H House at Broxbourne. The door of the "Family Room" beyond is open: the steep stairs lead up to the tiny Chapel.

it was ; and so it proved to be. An entrance hall, with its ship timbers bearing witness to the age of the place and telling of stormy seas well weathered ; a Family Room, with an atmosphere ; in it and about it ; a quaint stairway, quainter far than any in a " council " house shall ever be an Upper Room, with its tiny window offering a view straight out to the War Memorial, and its tiny altar offering a view deep into Things of which a man might well drink and live.

When began the fairy story, or whatever it be, the ogres held the stage—the house breakers, the business builders, gazing with covetous eyes from their high ground of finance at the site of the place. Had they been able, they might have held the stage for many months, and they would perchance have made of that ancient house a rougher thing than a builder's scrap heap and a more material thing than a Toc H House. But the miracle was in the working, for the news of the likely desecration of so ancient a house reached the ears of " Quex," a scribe in London City. And there, if men will, is their elfin king ! So on January 4 appeared in cold type but with a certain warmth for all that, a couple of paragraphs in a London evening paper telling of the thing which was to be unless £1,200 was raised. Then, a fortnight later, came a letter from Mrs. McLachlan—a lady in another " Talbot House," a Talbot House in the heart of London theatre-land. An amazing coincidence of names ! So it happened that after a few visits to this other Talbot House there began to come in the minds of a few men the realisation that here indeed was another stage in the process of the working of a thing far bigger than a fairy story.

Ship timbers ; wattle and daub ; a Family Room with but a square foot or so of match-boarding dividing it from a smithy anvil ; other fine rooms, upstairs and down ; outbuildings ; a plot of ground at the rear, ripe for development ; the smithy itself.

Mrs. McLachlan lost the young men of her clan in the days when Flanders seemed so close—too close—to home. Because her vision is fixed full well on the building of a true Jerusalem she has bestowed upon Toc H the stewardship of this ancient house, by providing the purchase money. Thus does this 17th century building become the property of the Family ; a memorial and yet a workshop ; an ancient house and yet maybe a Temple in the scheme of things eternal.

Ship timbers ; wattle and daub ! And the while the iron is hot and fit for forging, the hammer of the smith rings on the anvil that is close to the Family Room—a fine accompaniment for a song. Ship timbers ; wattle and daub ! Yet in this—no longer a fairy story but a simple miracle—there are deeper things for the minds of men to find than those which lie beneath the deepest driven dowel in the timbers.

Ship timbers ; wattle and daub ! They built well, those workman of sixteen hundred odd : maybe they loved to build. If faith is great and vision large ; if courage is high, and men—and women too—remain adventurous, there shall be accomplished in this ancient house some better thing than men have ever hoped for. And such things, truly toiled at, may lead to a better and braver building, stone on stone, of that which men call the City of God.

ZED.

Here is the prayer which was first used in the tiny Chapel at Broxbourne on the night when the gift of the House was made known :—

O God our Father, in Whose hands is the giving of every good gift, we thank Thee that in Thy wisdom Thou hast seen fit to bestow upon us the stewardship of this ancient house and all that it contains for us and for posterity. Help us by Thy power to make of this building a true workshop wherein we may fashion in humble ways some better thing than we have yet accomplished. Teach us to build bravely stone on stone, with steadfastness and joy ; give us inspiration and lead us along the road ; deepen our faith, enlarge our vision and give us humility, so that we may raise up in ourselves and in others true tabernacles for Thy habitation. Teach us so to build, and make us honest stewards. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, our great Elder Brother. Amen.

TOC H AND L.W.H.

THE relations between Toc H and its League of Women Helpers have been from the first, and still are, a matter of frequent discussion in this place or that. Perhaps not all members nowadays realise that a few women, less than a dozen, are Foundation Members of Toc H in their own right—as hospital nurses in the Salient they worshipped in the Upper Room of Talbot House, Poperinghe, and signed the Communicants' Roll, the only Record of Foundation membership. The question of admitting women as full members of Toc H, *i.e.*, in effect amalgamating L.W.H. with Toc H as one Society, was raised at the Central Council meeting on April 26, 1924. The upshot then was a resolution, which was passed unanimously, "that consideration of the question whether women should be elected as members of Toc H be postponed *sine die*; and that pending further orders of the Council no women be elected members of Toc H." The report of the Council meeting (May JOURNAL, 1924) adds, "It was made clear that the few women who were Foundation Members remained members of Toc H. And the possibility of the L.W.H. undertaking to run a hostel in London on Toc H lines was mentioned." Since that time, of course, not only have the first two "Junes" been established in London, but the Toc H League of Women Helpers has developed very rapidly in units and membership, in its jobs, and in its conception of the place it can fill. But members of both parts of the Family—and Tubby has told us very clearly that Toc H and L.W.H. are *one* family (see December JOURNAL, 1927)—are still often perplexed as to their proper functions and relationship to each other. A report of a serious discussion on this subject between Huddersfield Toc H and L.W.H. at a joint meeting, held on February 21, has reached us and seems well worth printing for the consideration of members of both Societies as a whole. Here it is then :—

"The matter of the relationship between Toc H and the L.W.H. has for a long time been felt to be one about which existing thought was considerably confused. Moreover it has been realised by members of both units that just as long as there remained clouded thinking, there would be a potent cause of friction between the masculine and the feminine youth of our town, and since we knew that nothing could be lost by a frank discussion we made it the subject of debate at the joint meeting. After an hour and a half debate the following statement was hammered out, proposed and seconded, voted upon, and passed as the opinion of the majority of the members of Toc H and L.W.H. in Huddersfield :—

Issues Involved

1. The question was felt to be fundamentally a question of the equality of the sexes, but the issue was made more complex by the fact that it was a family matter.
2. What was the *raison d'être* of the L.W.H.? Were they there solely to assist Toc H (even to the extent of darning their socks!) or were they attempting to carry the ideals of Toc H into the women's world, translating our aims and methods into feminine language?

Solution

1. The L.W.H. strongly objected to the idea that they were merely helpmeets of the men, since many of them already had their own men to look after, and found "the home" a perfectly satisfactory institution ready made for them to fulfil that function in their lives. In fact they saw no point in forming a society simply to do that. On the other hand they saw a very real need for a movement, based upon Our Elder Sisters who gave their lives in the War, attempting to plant the aims of Toc H in the hearts and wills of the girls of England, and employing the same methods.

2. The latter being the agreed basis for the existence of the L.W.H. the question then arose as to the relationship of two kindred movements, who were yet members of the same family (the analogy of the Scout and Guide movements was quoted but thought to be not quite parallel). In any case we wanted our own language to express our own ideas.

3. After much thought it was grasped that the relationship was not that of brother and sister but of a loving husband and wife. Legally the man is the head of the house, in practice they are equal in their own spheres. This relation of husband and wife also implies responsibility—it is a double responsibility—each has a responsibility towards the other, but each has also a responsibility towards those dependent on them. Apply this analogy to the question in hand. Both organisations are of the same stock, but each is separate in its working and in its fellowship. Legally and morally Toc H is the senior member of the family, but since the union is based upon and fired by love, each recognises the importance of the other in its own sphere, and leaves it unmolested therein. It is, in fact, an ideal type of “Joint Stock Company,” in which the partners are of equal status, and mutually bow to the authority of each other in the management of each department.

4. Apply this principle in two directions, (a) Fellowship, (b) Service:—

(a) It was agreed that the Birthday Festivals should be held separately, for then the eyes of the Public were on us and it was not desirable that the “Youth on the Pavement” should think that either Toc H or L.W.H. was a mixed show. (It is essential that Toc H remain as masculine as it is Christian, and it is equally important that L.W.H. remain feminine.) But in order to preserve the family relations between the two, it was resolved that there should be held quarterly joint meetings; and since no clandestine marriage can prosper, that these be Guest-nights.

(b) Service. For purposes of determining the number and character of joint corporate jobs, a joint committee to meet once a year, but Jobmaster and Jobmistress to work in as close harmony as possible.

If these principles are acknowledged we feel that the independence of each will be preserved and family love secured.”

SUNDAY NIGHT CONCERTS

Following up the article on this subject in the February JOURNAL, Stroud, one of the newest Groups, relates its experience of running a Sunday night programme. Stroud's period of “groping,” which began last October, has been from the first closely connected with this Toc H job.

STROUD, like many another country town up and down England, forms the centre of a scattered rural district, with numerous well-populated villages round about it. As a natural consequence the town has to deal, on Sunday evenings, not only with its own population but with an invasion of young people from all points of the compass. The streets are narrow for the amount of traffic which they contain, and the space left for promenading is rather like a decent-sized pocket-handkerchief, with a road along each hem and one across the middle for luck. Moreover in many parts the streets are badly lighted. The dark doorways of business houses have an enormous attraction as trysting places for the local Romeo and Juliet, who are apt to spend a whole evening in the darkest corner and at the same time within a few feet of the crowded roadway. An attempt some time ago by local traders to put a stop to this by lighting their shop windows on Sunday evening failed because it was not uniformly done: the young people simply left the illuminated shops alone and moved to darker doorways.

This was the situation to improve which the Stroud Group set out—not without much misgiving from the fainter hearts—last October. There is no longer any doubt that the whole Group is now keen on this job, and that some little alteration has been the result of their work. A number of discussions led to the bold venture of booking the Picture House on Sunday nights for a series of ten fortnightly concerts. Nine of these have already been held, and, although the scheme from the financial point of view has proved a white elephant, every concert has attracted about six hundred young people. To ensure that the right people are “captured” for these concerts, two stewards distribute tickets on the night of the concert to those actually in the streets of the town. This is done after the usual hour for evening services at the various places of

worship to begin, and since the concert itself does not start until 8 p.m. and there is no bar to entry without tickets, there is no reason why anyone should stay away from an evening service in order to attend the concert.

The programme consists chiefly of community singing, interspersed with a few vocal or instrumental solos, and it is interesting to note that, although popular songs are well received, it is the well-known hymns which "bring down the house." For the last concert of the season (which will have taken place before these lines are in print) suggestions have been invited from the six hundred odd "patrons" and it is remarkable—or not, as the case may be!—that every one of the suggestions hitherto received is for one of the most popular hymns.

The scheme is by this time well under way, and the concert programmes run with a smoothness which was not even dreamt of in the early days, when all sorts of difficulties continually cropped up. At first, for instance, a really "rough" element which Stroud is well able to provide had to be dealt with. On one or two occasions the entrance was rushed by them, and minor disturbances often occurred during the evening from a few of "the lads" who fancied themselves as musicians and parodists. But the wilder spirits were always quelled by the Jobmaster, who massed his band of Stewards at the "scene of enemy activity" until order was restored. Only once was it necessary to cause the hero of such an incident, a local Joe Beckett, to leave the hall in a horizontal instead of the more usual vertical position.

Two incidents will long be remembered by the group of voluntary stewards who have worked so well at these early concerts. The first was when a lady who was well known as an assistant in a local shop (not unconnected with the tallest building in New York) got up to sing. Her firm received unexpected advertisement when she was well and truly presented with "the bird": the concert ended amidst tumult not equalled before or since. The second occasion was when the Group Padre mounted the platform to give a short religious address. A body of the "roughs" rose and made a dart for the door. The Padre at once called on the stewards to close the doors and keep them closed until he was done, and then gave a little homily on the significance of "Light" in Toc H. It is uncertain whether the agonised concentration to be seen on a few faces was directed to the clock or to the Padre's address.

In this job Toc H has been generously aided by many friends. First, an appeal for funds made by the *Stroud News* has brought a fair measure of financial support. And local organists, pianists and singers have given of their services freely and spontaneously.

THE LIGHTING OF THE NEW LAMPS

THE Lamps of the fifty-six new Branches (see page 123) will be lit for the first time by H.R.H. the Patron on Saturday, April 27, at the Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Annual Meeting of the Central Council will be held at 1.30 p.m. on that day in the *Upper House* of the Church House.

From 5 p.m. the representatives of the new Branches will be assembling in the *Hoare Memorial Hall* in the Church House to meet the Donors of the Lamps and the relatives of those to whose memory the Lamps are to be dedicated. At 5.30 p.m. the *Large Hall* will be open to all those in possession of tickets. The Ceremony of the Lighting of the Lamps will start at 6 p.m. (not 8 o'clock, as stated in the March number of the JOURNAL, page 107). Supper (1s. 6d.) will be provided at about 8.30 p.m.

Tubby wishes it to be known that there will be Celebrations of Holy Communion at All Hallows on Sunday morning, April 28, at 8.30 and 9.30 a.m. He will preach at the Service at 11 a.m.

TOC H AND L.W.H. BATTLEFIELDS PILGRIMAGES

THE programme for the Pilgrimage arranged by Headquarters (mentioned in the January JOURNAL) is now arranged, and is given below. The charges given are inclusive, and though they may have to be altered later, it would only be slightly. The charges for the tramping parties and for the week-end in Paris, which are suggested for those who have more time, cannot be given exactly, but those quoted should cover all necessary expenses.

The pilgrimage itself will be of six days, from Saturday, August 31 till Thursday, September 5, but it will be possible to come just for the week-end. Parties will leave Victoria on Friday, August 30, at 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., but all return parties will travel over-night, and so arrive back at Victoria early the following morning. The charges quoted are for those who leave London on Friday evening; and those leaving on Friday morning should add another 8s. to the prices.

A. *Friday Evening to Monday morning*: Week-end in Ypres and the Salient. £3 os. od.
(NOTE: Members who have to be at work on Monday morning will be able to join the Pilgrimage, as they are due to arrive in London at breakfast-time on Monday.)

B. *Friday evening to Friday morning*: Week-end at Ypres, and thence by motor transport to the Somme, spending Monday to Thursday nights at Albert. £7 10s. od.

Passports are not required by those with week-end tickets, but all those staying longer (*i.e.*, going to the Somme or beyond) will need them. New passports cost 7s. 6d.; apply personally or by letter to the Passport Office, 1, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, S.W.1 (opposite H.Q. which is 1, Queen Anne's Gate). Passports must be endorsed for Belgium, France and, if needed, Germany, etc.

Extensions: For those who can spare a longer holiday, certain extensions are recommended. Parties can be made up for these later. Leaving the Somme, the following extensions are being planned:—

C. Pilgrimage week and visit to Paris (Friday evening to Monday morning, September 9) About £9 3s. od.

D. Pilgrimage week and ten days tramping in Normandy, beginning from Rouen (arrive back, *via* Southampton, Monday morning, September 16). About £11 10s. od.

E. Pilgrimage week and tramp in the Black Forest returning some of the way up the Rhine by Boat. (Arrive back September 16.) About £13 os. od.

The tramping parties in Germany will be joined, it is hoped, by some of our German friends. So that as many as possible should have the opportunity of coming on the Pilgrimage, perhaps those who can would like to pay a little more than the exact charges, which could then be reduced proportionately for those who have difficulty in paying them.

Applications: Will all those (Toc H or L.W.H.) who intend coming please send in their names as soon as possible to Ormond Wilson, 1, Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1, saying, if possible, how much of the Pilgrimage they will be with? Full details will be sent to them later; *their exact plans must be received by August 1 at latest.*

A Branch Pilgrimage

Ealing Branch will run a Pilgrimage (as Tunbridge Wells did last year) to Ypres on Friday, June 28 to Monday, July 1. Leaving London at 10 p.m. on the Friday, members will reach London again at 8 a.m. on the Monday. All members from other Branches and Groups will be welcome.

The Cost will be £2 13s. 6d.

Applications should be sent at once to W. H. A Walkley, 14 Gumleigh Road, Ealing, W.5.

SUMMER TRAMPS. I.—In Germany.

THE work of the *Deutsche Jugendherbergen* (the German Youth Lodges' Movement, known for short as "D.J.H.") was briefly described in the May JOURNAL last year by a Toc H member who had sampled it. His article created a good deal of interest even outside Toc H (it was recently reprinted in the Scottish Church's *Man's Own Paper* and its pictures have just been borrowed by the Manchester *Millgate Monthly*) as well as among our own members. Last summer more than one Toc H party sampled the Herbergen (see, for instance, October JOURNAL, p. 391-396) and this summer more members are getting ready to do so. The amazing network of over 2,000 houses where youth on trek—youth of all classes and both sexes—is welcomed for 6d. a night or less, has as yet no counterpart in England, though a beginning has been made along the Scottish border, (see note on this page.) It is a movement which is profoundly affecting German life for good, and some of us believe that Toc H would do very well to study it at first hand with a view to action at home. Nottingham Branch, acting quickly on the enthusiastic report of Toc H members who tramped in Germany last year, have now arranged several such tours, and any member wishing to join them should get into touch at once with their organiser, E. W. Saywell ("Sago"), 1, Marlborough Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham, who will send them all particulars on application. The main outline is as follows:

1. *Dates of Parties*: (a) June 15-29; (b) June 29-July 13; (c) July 13-27; (d) August 3-17; (e) August 31-September 14. Parties leave London on Saturday in each case at 10 a.m.; 2 p.m. (main body) or 10 p.m., as individuals are able, arriving in Cologne next day.

2. *Proposed Programme (in brief)*: *Sunday*—Cologne; *Monday*—Rhine steamer to Coblenz; *Tuesday*—walk Coblenz to Boppard (12 miles); *Wednesday*—walk Boppard to Bacharach (17 miles); *Thursday*—walk to Bingen, train to Frankfurt; *Friday*—in Frankfurt or to Taunus Mountains; *Saturday*—Frankfurt by train to Darmstadt. The next three days will be spent in walking through the Odenwald, *viz.*, *Sunday*—to Auerbach (12 miles); *Monday*—to Weinheim (10 miles); *Tuesday*—to Heidelberg (15 miles); *Wednesday*—in Heidelberg; *Thursday*—train to Mainz; *Friday*—leave Mainz for Cologne and Ostend-Dover.

4. *Cost* (exclusive of transport in Germany after arriving at Cologne, *i.e.*, trains, motors, river steamers) is reckoned at £5 19s. 6d. This includes passport (7s. 6d.—essential), membership of the D.J.H. (5s. 9d.—also essential in order to use their houses), food and lodging for 14 days (£2), and return fare, London to Cologne (about £3 7s.).

5. *Rules*: "Sago" says that "Our rules are: 1. We are taking no steps to form Toc H; 2. We are just on a tour of inspection, to make a good impression, to make good friends, and to have a good time; 3. And don't forget—a smile is a smile, whatever the tongue."

By using the Herbergen our members will be in closest touch with young Germans of all kinds. The Herberg is a wonderful meeting place, varying greatly in size and nature (*e.g.* Cologne D.J.H. has 540 beds in a finely transformed barracks, Bacharach is a Rhine castle, the forest D.J.H. are farmhouses, etc.). So good wishes to all these our emissaries.

II.—In Scotland.

The *Man's Own Paper* (Church of Scotland Publication Office, 72, Hanover Street, Edinburgh. 3d.) for April follows up its reprint of the *Herbergen* article from our JOURNAL by some details of the Scottish scheme of Holiday Lodges. At present there are seven Lodges along the Border between Peebles and Berwick-on-Tweed (Yarrow, St. Boswells, Jedburgh, Yetholm, Coldstream) and more are being opened. In the Highlands there is already a ring of Lodges, and others are being contemplated. Those of our members who wish to use these Lodges can join the Scottish Holiday Fellowship for 2s. 6d.; a night's lodging in a Lodge costs 1s. or 1s. 6d. All particulars can be obtained from I. S. M. Thomson, 2, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

An Old Nigger's Philosophy

These verses are copyright and are reprinted by permission of the author, Mr. Chester, who is ready to supply them, printed on a card in red and black, at cost price (2d.) to Toc H members, if sufficient orders are received: they should write to him at "Borth," Thames Ditton, marking their letters "Toc H."

EVERYBODY in dis life has got dere ups and downs,
Life don't always smile at us, it sometimes gibs us frowns,
Wot's de good ob grousin' den it can't help anyone,
Keep on lookin' cheerful—fer it's always better fun.
Wot's de good ob grousin'?

Wake up in de mornin' jest as soon as it is light,
Make your mind up den and dere, dat everything's goin' right;
Ef you find your labour hard, jest clench your teeth and say,
"Dis yer bit o' work ain't goin' to beat me any way."
Wot's de good ob grousin'?

Life's a puzzle any way, but still I always find
Happiness is most dependent on your state o' mind;
Ef you think all oder people is a silly crowd,
P'raps it's you's der fool, so don't say what you think too loud.
Wot's de good ob grousin'?

Wot's de good ob grousin' when your beaten in some sport?
Oders want ter win sometimes, and sure I think dey ought,
Crowds dey love to see a man wot wins a great big test,
But the chap dat loses well, it's him dey love de best.
Wot's de good ob grousin'?

Wot's de good ob grousin' when de rain is pourin' down?
Dat won't send it up again, so 'taint no use to frown;
Some folks want der rain, and dat is why it's sent along,
You ain't everybody, you're a speck in all der throng.
Wot's de good ob grousin'?

Wot's de good ob grousin' when you find you've missed der train?
No good running up der line, won't catch it up again;
Wot's der good ob cussin' porters, swearin', looking vexed,
Set right down upon der seat and travel by der next.
Wot's de good ob grousin'?

Wot's der good ob grousin' when your things don't all go right?
Any fool can give in quick, it takes a man to fight;
Get a grin on dat ole dial, you like dat I take it?
Ef you silly face won't smile, practise till you make it.
Wot's de good ob grousin'?

Wot's de good ob grousin' when some illness lays you low?
Take much longer gettin' better ef you're filled with woe,
Ef de Doctur orders bed for just a little while,
Thank der Lord you've got a bed, and jump right in and smile.
Wots' de good ob grousin'?

Give up all dis grousin' den and thank der Lord for work,
 Make your mind up right away dat you ain't goin' to shirk ;
 Smile through work, and smile through play, and den you'll always find
 Ole world will smile back at you, and troubles fall behind.

Wot's de good ob grousin' ?

FREDERICK CHESTER (Russell Canning).

IN MEMORIAM

Ivan Webb : Bulawayo Group, Rhodesia

IN the death of Ivan Webb, who passed over in the Bulawayo Memorial Hospital on January 4, Toc H in Bulawayo has suffered a severe blow. Of an unassuming disposition, always ready to offer himself for any job that was going, he showed in his life the force of quiet, unostentatious service. The funeral was conducted by Padre Cranswick and the Rev. S. C. Waldegrave, and there was a large muster of his fellow members, who came to pay their last tribute not only to a loyal fellow-worker but to a true friend. The sympathy of all goes out to Webb's aged father.

Charles Dorman : President, Middlesbrough Branch

Toc H at Middlesbrough, in common with the whole town, has suffered an incalculable loss by the passing of Charles Dorman on February 28. He was the first President of the Branch and had guided and supported it from its first beginnings. "To watch him" (wrote Tubby in the *Times*) "among them, cheerful and courteous to the humblest of his own employees, was to profit by a patient exposition of that steady sincerity which cannot be assumed. To all this local work he added many quiet commendations of Toc H to agents of his great firm overseas ; and in Australia, India, and South America the society is the stronger for men who have acted on his introductions. . . . To men like him the conduct of a great business is nothing less than a ministry, solemnly accepted and untiringly fulfilled in fairness and love unfeigned."

A number of members attended the funeral (at which the Archbishop of York read the latter part of the service) and placed a double cross of daffodils among the two hundred wreaths which surrounded the grave. On the following Sunday, a large company of Toc H joined with "Mr. Charles's" own people in a Memorial Evensong, which included the Ceremony of Light.

Denys Firth : Sometime Chairman, Bedford Branch

Bedford Branch has lost one of its finest members, its late Chairman, Major Denys Firth. He was one of those men whom it was indeed good to know, and his presence at Toc H meetings always seemed to lift them from the commonplace. He was greatly loved by all who knew him.

Evan C. Pike : Hon. Treasurer, Clacton-on-Sea Branch

Evan Pike, Branch Treasurer of Clacton and a Foundation member of Toc H, passed over to the Elder Brethren on March 18. He was a tower of strength to his fellow-members, a man greatly loved and sadly missed.

Herbert Fleming : Belfast Branch

'Erb Fleming, who passed over in mid-March, was a most beloved member of Belfast Toc H, a really wonderful youth whom the boys of the Newsboys' Club, the Rovers, the Scouts and a host of friends all miss. This is the third loss (the others were Duggan and Aicken) which the Branch has sustained by death in less than four months, and all these Elder Brethren were exceptionally fine men, who shortened their days by their service for others.

NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

London Federation

Northern District.—In addition to the efforts of ENFIELD, PALMERS GREEN and NEW BARNET in connection with the relief of distress in the Mining Areas, as mentioned in the February issue of the JOURNAL, substantial results have also been achieved by BARNET, FINCHLEY, HACKNEY, ISLINGTON and WOOD GREEN. An interesting feature of BARNET'S Birthday Party on February 19 was a two minutes' report given by representatives of neighbouring Branches and Groups on the service which they were doing. As a result of the recommendation made by Gilbert Williams at the party for inter-correspondence between Overseas and Home branches, FINCHLEY are trying to establish a correspondence link with Verulam (Natal) and Group 3 of Buenos Aires. Amongst other efforts they have been making a book collection for the Oxford and Bermondsey Club and a St. Dunstan's member of the Group has renovated and repaired all the ward screens of the local hospital. HACKNEY have raised between £12 and £15 towards the Endowment Fund by means of a local production on February 14 of "Hay Fever," performed by a Drama League caste. They also organised Daffodil Day (February 16) in Clapton, with satisfactory results, notwithstanding cold weather. The necessary contacts having been made, a local Group of the L.W.H. is about to be started. HIGHGATE have just formed a Discovery Team and are in process of exploring the more obscure areas in their district. New Groups are making good headway at New Barnet and Tottenham, and East Enfield is just falling under the sinister influence of Toc H expansion. The Branches and Groups in the district will join together in observing the World-Encircling Ceremony of Light on the occasion of the Australian Birthday Festival at their next District Guest-night on May 14, at the Wesleyan Church Hall, Finsbury Park, when Harry Ellison will be the speaker.

South-Eastern District.—GREENWICH held its second Birthday on February 18. Sidcup, Lewisham, Woolwich and Camberwell Toc H. and L.W.H. were well represented, and among the eighty visitors were Wm. A. Hurst (Treasurer of Toc H) and Lt.-Col. Adrian Porter. The programme included a sketch by the Group, Morris dancing by Greenwich Scouts and community singing. On March 4 the Group held a "Bring Your Own Grub" night, at which Padre Brochner spoke. Blackheath and Greenwich L.W.H. now meet at the Group's headquarters.

Southern District.—An important district event is the succession to the position of District Secretary of L. W. Heeler of Mark III. The new District Secretary is prepared to implode upon all Branches and Groups, especially if invited, and has a motor-bike which will be useful for the purpose. Out of our Groups, DULWICH, has been promoted to the Branch status, and a new Group, TOOTING, has been sanctioned. CROYDON carries on its Sunday evening job which was so well described and discussed in the February JOURNAL. CARSHALTON, not to be outdone, has established a similar Sunday evening centre at Sutton. Croydon's new headquarters—their very own—in the stables of Eldon House, which is the headquarters of the Croydon Council of Social Service, is a great acquisition, well suited both to Branch meetings and to the activities of the Eldon House Senior Boys' Club, which is run by the Branch. BATTERSEA and CLAPHAM too, after years of search, have acquired premises which they can call their own with two rooms, one of which is used as the Branch chapel. This new house was dedicated by Humphrey Money at a solemn service in which the new local "Grove" of the L.W.H. most fittingly took part. WALWORTH played the part of host most ably at a District Concert Night on February 28, when we were all delighted to see and hear Uncle Harry Ellison once again after his last tour.

In the *South-Western District* TWICKENHAM has earned its Lamp and is now about the work of spreading Toc H in Hounslow. The job of collecting clothes for the miners has been continued successfully. RICHMOND and ESHER have also been co-operating with local efforts for similar objects, in finding both clothes and funds, and in addition have each organised a "Marigold Day" collection. The Thames Ditton "Grove" helps Esher's efforts. Richmond, in rededicating their Lamp on March 16, is also parting with Padre Maxwell, whom it is losing to Battersca, and death has taken, in E. W. Pope, a much-valued member after many years' service for good.

London members are given a cordial invitation to the *Western District* Guest-night at Mark I. on April 10, when Lord Forster will speak, while Barkis was due for a visit to the Mark on March 27. HAMMERSMITH arranged its Grand Light ceremony for March 21, a day of vivid memories for those who were round about St. Quentin on this day eleven years ago, a concert preceding the rededication in Holy Innocents' Church. Work among the Boy Scouts in the "Fleming" Hut is still going strong, and additions have been made to the equipment of the Boys' Club by the provision of a horse, punching ball, etc. FULHAM has had a very busy time, and is very happy at its promotion to Branch status. A week after holding a dinner, at which "Ronnie" Campbell was the guest of honour, a big meeting was held and Dr. L. F. Browne gave a talk on the old house at "Pop." Other notable meetings have followed and members are increasing so that, though jobs be numerous, it is becoming necessary to look for more. CHISWICK members are grateful to "Appy" and various members of neighbouring Branches and Groups who have "dropped in" from time to time to give encouragement. Their Rushlight was dedicated in the presence of a full congregation. "The Romance of Blood Transfusion" is to be the subject of a talk on April 8, while the Group is anxious to try to obtain the use of open spaces in the district for games by lads over fourteen who are at present prohibited from playing football

and cricket and are consequently forced to hang about the streets. The secretary would be glad to hear from any Group or Branch faced with a similar problem. ACTON tried its hand at arranging a public meeting, and a lecture on the history of the borough created a good deal of local interest. It also arranged a joint debate with EALING, some of whose members have been mightily impressed with Croydon's Sunday evening show. Ealing Broadway is full of young people on Sunday nights, so Ealing members, with the benefit of Croydon's experience, are endeavouring seriously to tackle the problem.

At the *North-Western District* Guest-night on March 7, HENDON acted as hosts and Rex Calkin spoke.

New "Groves" are in process of development in Smithfield and University College, while HIGHGATE and MARK VII are working on contacts in Kentish Town. MARK VII have had a succession of talks on the "Prevention of War," each of which has provoked interesting discussions. Guest-nights will continue in the House as usual on Thursday evenings until the end of June.

London Sports Club—Tennis Section.—Those members who play lawn tennis—a fairly large company—will be pleased to hear that preparations are well advanced for a big Toc H tournament this summer. It will run throughout the season and provide *pukka* Toc H champions for this most played of all games. Branches and Groups will be circularised with full details.

Soccer Section.—The Toc H Soccer Team, run under the auspices of the London Sports Club, have had a great second half. For many weeks they did not lose a match, including several league games, and with "Tommy" Lyttle and "Bill" Bennett back in the field the side seems more like its old self. Four elevens are being fielded each week. A strong fixture list for next season is almost complete. The record to date is: Games played 24, won 10, lost 9, drawn 5, goals 70-53.

Rugger Section.—The Rugger men, who are just finishing their best season, are to have an



Above : Lighting the Rushlight.

Below : The Group (Paul Slessor is seen leaning against the wall on right).

(See page 127.)



Above : Resolution Bay (named after Capt. Cook's ship) with the boys on the launch Fern.

Centre : The Camp on the shores of Oyster Bay, Picton.

Below : Boys on board the launch Oria. (See page 122.)

even better card next season. Five teams will be run each week throughout the season, so no one need despair of a game. Record to date of First XV is: Played 21, won, 13, lost 7, drawn 1, points 239-168.

Toc H swimmers should make a note that the *Swimming Section* of the London Sports Club are holding their second annual Swimming Gala on Thursday, October 10. Three championship events—London Schoolboys Team Championship, Boys' Graceful Diving, and the Junior Final of the London Water Polo League—have been secured for the evening.

Splash nights are this month resumed on Tuesdays at the Great Smith Street Baths from 9 to 10 p.m.

Two Sports Club Dances will be held next winter, in November and March.

The Camping Ground.—All applications for week-end camping sites on the sports ground at Barnet should be sent to L. F. Collinson, The Brothers House, 119, Kennington Park Road, S.E.11. In view of the popularity of these camps early application is advisable in order to avoid disappointment.

Western Home Counties Area

In the *West Surrey District* WEYBRIDGE have started a boys' club in their new headquarters, on the outside of which the Toc H sign is to be seen hanging. The programme of the very successful third Birthday of the Branch included a thanksgiving and rededication in the Congregational Church on Saturday afternoon, a high tea, sing-song and boisterous games ending with "Light" and family prayers in the evening; on Sunday morning Communion services at the Parish Church and Congregational Church, breakfast at Branch Headquarters, and in the afternoon a very useful discussion on "Spreading Toc H," followed by tea. Besides members from the West Surrey District there were visitors from Kingston, Richmond, Bromley and Portsmouth. On February 17 Padre Budden and other members drove over to REDHILL, where the Padre preached in the Congregational Church, while Padre Tom Garaway preached in the Parish Church on February 24. Since then meetings have been held, and a Redhill and Reigate "Grop" is an accomplished fact. GUILDFORD rejoices in its newly-born Branch status. The Branch is considering with "Copec" the formation of a Juvenile Organisations Committee for the town. LEATHERHEAD reports a performance of the play "So this is London," on February 23, by the Odds and Ends Players in the hall of the Royal School for the Blind. The orchestra hailed from St. John's School,

Leatherhead. Toc H members did the stewarding and other work, and hope that the proceeds will enable them to rent a room as Group Headquarters. There are hopes of starting Toc H at Epsom. At GODALMING jobs have been plentiful, including carpentry work for St. Dunstan's, etc., sanatorium visiting, serving on the local committee for the Miners' Distress Fund, etc. FARNHAM are also busy on behalf of the miners, and have sent away a great deal of clothing already. Man-power has been supplied for another boys' club. The hospital contributory scheme, a lads' club, a Group male-voice quartet, stewarding Sunday evening meetings for young people, etc., keep WOKING members busy. An evening at the Boys' County School, with the "Roosters" Concert Party to amuse and Ronnie Grant to instruct, helped to raise £50 for the Endowment Fund. Padre Money came on March 5 to initiate L.W.H. members. ALDERSHOT Branch's deaf and dumb club, run by three Toc H. and two L.W.H. members, has successfully completed its second year, and its weekly meetings and monthly services have become known over a wide area. A new member has taken complete charge of a Scout Troop. Membership, although low, is now steadily increasing, and the Branch anticipate a big forward move in the near future as members of the West Surrey District, to which they have just been transferred. Guest nights, third Thursday in the month.

South-Eastern Area

The troops from the Guards' Depot continue to make good use of CANTERBURY'S rooms on Saturday evenings. On January 19 a whist drive and concert was held for the troops, which was well attended, and the Commandant of the Depot has written and thanked the Branch for its help. There have been a number of fine talks. Various contacts with Herne Bay justify the hope that a group will soon be launched there. On March 9 a number of members met the Overseas teachers who were paying a visit to Canterbury under the direction of the League of Empire, and assisted in showing them round the City. DOVER celebrated its third birthday on March 12. At 7.30 a.m. there was corporate communion at St. Mary's Church, followed by a lively family breakfast; at 7.45 p.m. members from Canterbury, Maidstone and Folkestone "imploded," and half an hour later the programme opened with the *Battle Hymn* and the ceremony of "Light." The Bishop of Dover ("Archie," as he still remains to members) conducted the rededication. The Folkestone Chairman, Holmes, gave a fine talk on the Toc H job in the home. At supper afterwards there were many speakers, including the Bishop, the Mayor, and the Senior Chaplain to the Garrison. During supper sneezing powder was mysteriously distributed—the first time on record that Canterbury has given anything away! Among jobs being done or about to be done are mending wireless sets for the blind, digging the hospital garden, starting a Scout Troop at St. Margarets Bay, and helping a "grope" to start at Deal. SEVENOAKS also celebrated its birthday—

the first anniversary—with great enthusiasm. It began in the Wesleyan Church with a service of rededication which included "Grand light"; Gilbert Williams spoke at the birthday supper, and penny fines for mistakes in "action" songs produced 4s. for the Endowment Fund. On Sunday there was a Communion Service in the morning and an evening service at the Boys' Club, which is a successful group venture. TUNBRIDGE WELLS went out, after communion and breakfast, on February 10 to Wadhurst to hear their Padre preach on Toc H and meet the new "Grove" there. The branch holds its annual week-end camp and conference at Crowborough on June 29. The usual jobs, e.g., packing for the miners, boys' club, visiting mentally deficient and discharged prisoners, continue. Recent talks have been on "Municipal Reform" and "The Workmen's Compensation Act." The *Jottings* (No. 29) of the WEST KENT Branch contains a note on the death of Guy Ewing (see March JOURNAL, p. 106) besides its usual full measure of news from the "Wings" and items of humour. *East Farleigh* held a Guest-night on February 5 at the Coxheath Institution and invited men from Coxheath and Linton to come and hear about Toc H. Three days later they held their "Old Folks" party. *Offham's* Concert Party are busy giving concerts to institutions and in aid of local causes. *Otford* had a most successful Guest-night on February 13, to which Sevenoaks turned up in force in spite of bitter weather. The proceeds of a whist drive at *Platt* are being divided between Branch funds and buying manure for the Almshouses gardens.

Northern Home Counties and Eastern Area

The BEDFORD "Tinkers" progress slowly. They have, with the help of Rotary, now started their boys' club in a disused public house, the Red Lion, in All Hallows Lane; it is open every night, including Sundays.

In *East Anglia* the organisation into districts is going forward and already proves a real

help. CLACTON sent out its Padre and three other members on March 8 to Dovercourt, and on March 13 to Walton, to discuss the District scheme. On March 17 members of Toc H and L.W.H. were present, by invitation of the minister, in the Wesleyan Church, and have received a similar invitation from the

Salvation Army. GREAT YARMOUTH reports that they feel less isolated now that they belong to a District. The "Bloater" Branch is building steadily. They recently entertained the deaf and dumb in the town, they visit the local infirmary and the blind, and teach in Sunday schools. COLCHESTER collected over 1½ tons of boots and clothing for miners during December and despatched them to Bridgend. This job was so successful that the Mayor of Colchester invited the Branch to continue the work on behalf of the Mayor's Fund in conjunction with the Lord Mayor of London. The Carol Party at Christmas was again most successful in raising funds for Toc H work. Two Boys' Clubs,

two Scout Troops and a Cub Pack are still going strong. Other jobs are well in hand, and plenty of work is on offer. The Branch has visited Ipswich Branch, who greeted them in the real Toc H way. There have been interesting and instructive talks at weekly meetings. The Chief Constable of Colchester gave them a splendid address, and he and the whole Police Force here have taken a keen interest in Toc H work. Some members of the Force have been giving regular instruction in boxing at the Boys' Club, and as a result the boys have given a splendid account of themselves against boys selected from the Colchester Garrison. The Padre arranged a corporate evensong, which was well attended.

East and West Midlands Areas

The East Midlands Area *News Sheet* for March (No. 16) gives notice of three events which concern members of the Area in general—Tubby's visit towards the end of April, the Easter tour of the London Toc H Rugger Club to Mark XI., and the Area Conference at Derby on April 6 and 7. ANSTEY reports a talk by Col. R. E. Martin on their town ("Anstigue") in the olden times, and HINCKLEY and BARDON HILL have had similar talks on their neighbourhoods; these talks on local history were evidently appreciated, and such talks ought to be given in every Branch and Group as a real part of Toc H survey or "discovery" work. LEICESTER held a "Pancake Party" on Shrove Tuesday, and the "greaze" (pancake scramble) drew competitors from local units but left Leicester with the prize fragment. The *News Sheet* reports many meetings and leaves one to infer that jobs proceed as usual.

In the *West Midlands* LEAMINGTON is now a Group, having received the Rushlight from the area Padre "Reevo" at All Saints' Church on February 20, when Canon Feist, the Vicar, and Rev. G. Warwick, Padre of the Group, assisted at the dedication service. They then adjourned to their temporary headquarters, where several probationers were initiated. A short talk was given by the

secretary of the Rugby Branch on the "Co-operative jobs of Toc H," and a welcome visitor was received from the LADBROOKE Group. OSWESTRY is now practically a year old. They are in a rather lonely part of the West Midland Area but have now got good contacts in Shrewsbury and Welshpool, and soon hope to see "Gropes" started in these places. During the year their programme has been fairly varied. They have paid visits and been shown over the Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital, Liverpool Waterworks and a Coal Mine. Talks recently have been on "Scouts," "Old Customs," "Public House Signs," and "Wanderings in the Far East." They find plenty of jobs. The Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital takes most of their time and they have got in touch with patients for the Barrow-in-Furness Group and Rugby and Liverpool Branches. At the request of the matron they have now taken over the hospital library, and have also arranged concerts during the winter for them. They are now bearing in mind the need for a boys' club at the hospital in conjunction with Dame Agnes Hunt's scheme for trainees and hope to help this when numbers increase. They have one other corporate job, Oswestry Police Boys' Club. Other jobs include stewarding concerts for the miners and Dr. Barnardo's, auditing accounts, etc.

Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Areas

The first effect of spring at LEEDS has been a new and vigorous bud which has appeared at Harehills. The Padre, Bill Speight (a foundation member), and "Blazer" went over and outlined the history, ideals and jobs of Toc H, and three members from ARMLEY backed up their efforts. The new "Grove" meets on Fridays at the "Co-op.," Harehills Lane.

From *Lincolnshire* LINCOLN reports a service, in which the new Group in the city joined with the Branch, at St. Giles' Church. The new group, made up of old and new stock, promises excellently. Tubby is due in Lincoln

on April 30, and a general rally of members in the county is expected for a service at St. Peters-in-Eastgate and a family gathering afterwards. The C. of E. Padre is giving a series of talks to members immediately before Easter. LOUTH celebrated its third birthday on February 17 and 18. There were two services on the Sunday, and a Guest-night on Monday in the Town Hall, with 250 present. Professor Sorabji gave a fine talk and Padre Molyneux conducted community singing. SPILSBY Group, established last autumn, is going strong.

Northern Area

H.H. Princess Marie Louise has consented to open the bazaar at MARK XVIII on April 23. Although the Mark has been self-supporting, so far as running expenses go, since its opening over three years ago, £1,200 of the purchase price has not yet been raised, and it is hoped that the bazaar will reduce this sum considerably. After three years of special research work, Dr. Mess, of the Tyneside Social Survey, has published a report which has aroused a wide interest. Toc H members helped to provide some of the data for this report, and they are now helping to bring its recommendation before the public. South Shields have arranged a special series of studies in connection with the issue of this report. Dr. Mess emphasises the fact that the dormitory suburbs of the Tyne must realise their responsibility in social work. It is, therefore, a good sign that Toc H has been started at WHITLEY BAY, one of our most important dormitories, where the first members were initiated on March 13. They have already a

good record with local relief work. A conference at DURHAM decided to form a Mid-Durham District Committee, and there is every sign of increasing activity in the Durham coalfield. One of the features of Toc H on Tees-side is a club at SOUTH BANK for boys placed on probation by the local magistrates. By the passing of Mr. Arthur Dorman, Middlesbrough have lost a trusted councillor and friend, who counted for much in the life of the family. The initiation of the new PENRITH Group has been arranged for March 18, and a "Grove" has recently been formed at BERWICK. In February GRANGE-TOWN arranged an open conference for members in the Area. A discussion on "How to attract new men to Toc H without advertising" was opened by Padre Slater. After tea the conference attended the Parish Church, where Padre Slater preached. Grange-town's entertainments for the blind are a real success; the latest took the form of a gramophone recital, supplied by a local firm.

North-Western Area

The newly-formed *North Lancs. District* held its initial District Guest-night on March 2, the occasion of Morecambe Branch's third birthday festival. In the afternoon the Bishop of Barrow conducted the Thanksgiving Service, whilst in the evening, "Mac," of Sheffield, and the Rev. B. Pollard talked to a good number of blokes. On the Sunday, W. Riley, the

well-known author, addressed an open meeting. MORECAMBE, now a Branch, seek new quarters, both for the members and the boys' club: 30-40 boys in the Branch room soon upset the show. Treats to blind folk, a house-to-house collection in the Sandylands part of the town, in aid of St. Dunstan's Church Work and the collecting of clothes,

for the miners, are some of the winter jobs done. It is hoped to repeat last year's camp for the youngsters from Yorkshire. BLACKPOOL, who reported in the January issue, are running 12 week-end camps for town lads. A new line of jobs is that of piloting throughout the town some of the very many Sunday school trips which arrive daily in summer from the Lancashire towns. LANCASTER, made a Branch last month, have Bobs Ford as

Jobmaster. The Branch are developing the Fellowship side. A lads' club keeps them busy; weekly whist drives, caring for the sick and blind, the collection of silver paper and clothing for the miners, are other jobs. PRESTON progress with their hospital library scheme, and their boys' club is going strong. Lack of room has hindered the blokes, but this difficulty may soon be overcome. A local group of L.W.H. has just been formed.

West Country Area

GLOUCESTER'S annual week-end conference opened in the Mercers' Hall on March 16. Tubby addressed the first session, and a social evening followed. STROUD Group was formally inaugurated on February 21 in the Parish Church by Padre Bill Maddock (Area Padre). The first members had been initiated two days earlier at the Group's Headquarters, "The Loft," in Slad Road. The scene in the church was deeply impressive. Gloucester members (who had been chiefly responsible for forming the Group), with members from Cheltenham and Hartpury, and prospective members from Cirencester, occupied the central aisle, while Stroud members stood at the south door. The service opened with the church in complete darkness. A knock on the door heralded the arrival of the Rushlight, which was borne by Padre Maddock, who handed it over to the Group Chairman with the accustomed words. The Rushlight was then carried in procession to the chancel; prayers, the Pilgrims' hymn and an address by Bill Maddock followed. To the singing of "O Valiant Hearts," all members present formed a semi-circle in the chancel for "Grand Light." "A moment later," says the *Stroud*

News report, "the flame of the Rushlight had been multiplied eighty-fold, as the tapers of the members were lighted from the central source and, whilst the solemn dedication prayer was being read, the eighty-odd points of light gleaming fitfully, but insufficient to illuminate the higher portions of the chancel, presented the congregation with a stark representation of the Crucifixion, as it threw into relief the large figures surmounting the altar screen. The presence of the large Cross on the altar was also emphasised by sudden brilliance, as the light caught the shimmering brass and, from that symbol of the great Sacrifice of Calvary, it seemed to concentrate on two lesser calvaries, the two double crosses of Ypres embroidered on the ebony stole of the Padre, whose white surplice, together with that of his colleague at the lower end of the chancel steps, the calvaries, and the points of light, seemed to be the only really definable objects in a ceremony so simple and yet so impressive that it gave rise to a thousand memories and stamped itself for ever on the minds of those who were privileged to take part in it." After the service there was supper in the Corn Hall and a splendid Guest-night.

Wales

A meeting of the *South Wales and Monmouthshire* Council was held on March 5 at the City Hall, Cardiff. In the absence of the Lord Mayor, who was at another function and arrived later, Lt.-Col. Sir Rhys Williams, D.S.O., K.C., took the chair. Sir Rhys spoke of the great loss that Toc H in Wales had

sustained through the death of Sir Sidney Byass, and a vote of sympathy with Lady Byass and family was passed, all the members standing. Peter Monie then addressed the meeting and outlined a scheme of reorganisation for Toc H in Wales. Briefly the proposal is this: there shall be a Council for the whole

of Wales, which Council shall be advisory and not executive, but under the Council shall be a Finance Committee whose main object shall be the raising and administering of funds for the Welsh organisation. There shall also be District Committees, with executive powers and the districts shall in the first instance be as follows: Cardiff, Swansea, West Wales and North and Mid Wales. The proposal caused considerable discussion, during which the Lord Mayor emphasised the value from the point of view of national sentiment that would accrue from a national Council. The proposal was carried and Peter Monie was requested to bring the plan before the Central Executive for approval. During the last month LAMPETER has joined the brotherhood as a group. "Grope" are in being at WEST CARDIFF (Canton), MORRISTON, PRESTEIGNE and HAVERFORDWEST. LLANELLY has been very busy for the distressed miners. One day recently they turned over about 300 pairs of boots and shoes to the local depot of the fund; a member of the group has repaired roughly 200 pairs himself. They have also distributed lots of clothing.

In *North Wales* COLWYN BAY have had a very active winter, following their Birthday Festival in November. "Riding down to BANGOR" in two crowded cars, the Colwyn Bay members helped Higgon, Ronnie Grant and "Sawbones" to get a "Grope" going there. A more recent effort at Colwyn has resulted in a "Grope" there too, and enquiries are being made for a spread to Rhyl

and other towns. The Branch is very keen on this "missionary" work. Pupils of Rydal School who are Branch members, have been made "Wardens of the Lamp," which is now kept under the School memorial window. In the nature of things these school members soon move away to other places, and so the "handing on of the torch" may have a practical illustration in their wardenship of the Lamp. This point was forcibly put by the Secretary when he handed the Lamp over to three members just initiated. The connection between the branch and the school is highly valued, and both rejoice that the Rev. A. J. Costain (headmaster and, as "Skipper," a Toc H member) has been selected to preach to the huge congregation of Scouts at the International Jamboree at Birkenhead next August. "Skipper" and another Padre, G. Osborn Gregory, have preached a series of sermons on the four Gospel portraits of Christ, which have aroused more than local interest. Very useful talks have been given by S. Colwyn Foulkes on "Town Planning," by the vice-chairman of the Town Council on "Trading affairs (gas, electricity, etc.) of the Council," and by the chairman of the Council (now a Branch member) on "Municipal work." The Branch has been busy with work for the Distress Committees, Club and Scout work and general service. The Branch meets in the Rydal School cricket pavilion and as the South African cricket team plays Wales next July on this ground Toc H hopes to be there.

Scotland

Tubby's visit to ABERDEEN was greatly enjoyed by the Group. He arrived on February 25. That afternoon Sir George and Lady Adam Smith had a reception in their home, Chanonry Lodge, and several well-known Aberdeen people were present to meet Tubby. In the evening a public meeting was held in

the Y.M.C.A. hall, and Tubby again explained the aims of Toc H to an interested and appreciative audience. To wind up the day, the members and a few friends had supper with him in the Princess Cafe. This lasted into the "wee sma' 'oors," and naturally, was very much enjoyed by all.

Ireland: Northern Section

"Sawbones" (Manchester Area Padre) has finished the first week of his visit to Ireland,

and is becoming acclimatised! He had a busy time; Area Executive Committee on Monday,

BELFAST Branch meeting on Tuesday, LURGAN on Wednesday, ARMAGH on Thursday, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY and CARRICKFERGUS on Friday. On Tuesday afternoon he attended the funeral of 'Erb Fleming, a most beloved Belfast member, and the evening meeting that night was a memorial service (see p 136). Among the sponsors at Armagh for "Sawbones" was the Primate of the Church of Ireland. He had a specially successful meeting at Queen's

University and it is to be repeated; Belfast was impressive and pathetic; and in the other three centres the different character of each meeting was noticeable. "Sawbones" agrees that this is a field of considerable potentiality, but it is hoped that some way may be found to get a man with time to look after the area. The Distress Committee, inaugurated last month, has done admirable work, but the Branch as such was responsible only for its setting up for the City of Belfast.

News from Overseas Branches and Groups

CEYLON

The twenty-page printed annual report of COLOMBO Branch makes good reading. The report was presented at the annual meeting on December 5, with H.E. Sir Herbert Stanley (Patron of Toc H Ceylon) in the chair, following a service of thanksgiving and rededication at which the Bishop of Colombo spoke. Toc H in Colombo, founded by Tubby in 1925, gained its Lamp in 1927, and the report opens with an account of the Branch delegate arriving with the Lamp from England, and its dedication by Pat Leonard in St. Peter's Church on February 29, 1928. It is to be kept in the Church in a Chapel of Remembrance now being completed. A very happy and practical form of remembrance to those to whom the Lamp is dedicated has been instituted. The Lamp was given by Francis Mathew (formerly Warden of Mark I) in memory of his brother Murray and his sister Helen, and the Branch decided to support a boy and a girl (whose names have been changed to Murray and Helen) at the school for Deaf and Blind. This means raising 300 rupees every year; for the first year the amount has been paid over to the school and there is a small balance in hand. A remarkable achievement of the Branch in 1928 was its response to the Endowment appeal. In spite of depression in the rubber industry Colombo Toc H was able (through its hon. treasurer's great efforts) to send the sum of £564 1s. 4d. home to the Appeal Director. One of the most serious obstacles the Branch has faced is the

lack of a headquarters of its own, and the consequent falling off of attendance at meetings. "A branch" (writes the secretary) "cannot live on occasional gatherings, such as we have had this year, for if we only meet occasionally we meet, more or less, as strangers, whereas it is essential to the life of Toc H that we should be a family of friends. . . ." During the year twenty-three meetings were held, ten of them preceded by supper, and all except one in the Y.M.C.A. Supper costs the modest sum of one rupee, and the delicate task of collecting it is given to a member elected at each meeting, who acts as "Relieving officer" (*i.e.*, he relieves his fellow members of their money!). The membership stands at 33 active members, 23 general and 4 "out-station" members; during the year seven members were initiated and six more elected to general membership. The regular jobs of the Branch, corporate or individual, are filling offices under the Scouts Association, entertaining the prisoners in Welikada Jail and the patients in the asylum at Angoda, entertaining soldiers and sailors at the British Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute, hospital visiting in the Seamen's Ward and the non-paying wards of the General Hospital, running the Slave Island Working Boys' Club, which the branch founded in 1927. Most interesting details of all these jobs are given in the report. Among other jobs the annual entertainment of the children of the School for the Deaf and Blind is specially noteworthy.

RHODESIA

At SALISBURY, in spite of the almost incessant rains in February, the regular jobs, such as hospital visiting, have been carried on without interruption. The monthly concert at the hospital has been organised as usual, but patients now clamour for something more than the conventional songs and solos, and some songs in costume have been introduced and are now expected each month. A regular job, that of taking kiddies from the Home for a day on the veld, had to be abandoned on account of the rains, but Saturday afternoon games were substituted with success. Writing to Harry Ellison an UMTALI correspondent says: "The meetings would delight your heart now: they grow larger—an average attendance of about 30 against a

dozen twelve months back—and the spirit of them cheers the heart. 'The Retreat' to-day is the only place in Umtali where men—mostly young—are meeting freely. A happy mixture too. . . . Personal jobs are few, but Umtali recognises the value of a group of men willing to do any old thing. In support of this I would mention that we have twice lately been asked by the municipality to attend meetings with other societies: the Farmers' Association, the Loyal Women's Guild, etc., invite our help." He then goes on to discuss their project of building premises for the group (see March JOURNAL, p. 119). Congratulations to a fellow-editor, C. C. Woollacott, on No. 4, January, of the *Toc H Rhodesia News Sheet*.

SOUTH AFRICA

From the *Transvaal* comes the first newsletter from the new Branch correspondent. He writes: "We are in the happy position of possessing neither 'drones' nor jobs which exist merely on paper. These are some of our going concerns: regular visitation of General and Mental Hospitals and of the Blind. On these visits, literature, tobacco, sweets and other comforts are distributed, but the individual talk is the main object in view; native welfare (this includes many activities, viz.: kinema shows, Scout work, amelioration of bad domestic conditions), assistance of ex-prisoners and boys from reformatories (we try to make them feel they are not alone in the world); work among the lepers; visits of concert party to the lunatics and lepers. We have 4,000 of the former and 800 of the latter."

The *Eastern Province Bulletin*, with its cyclostyled cover design of Ypres arms, Lamp and Rushlight, has sent along its February number. CRADOCK, one of the new groups, reports that four Cookhouse members brought them their Rushlight on December 4, and taught them a very good song (*John Peel and Saire Marias*), sung simultaneously in competition by the opposing halves of the group—as we often sing *Tipperary* and *Pack up your troubles*

at home). A newspaper cutting gives news of another of the new groups, BEDFORD, which was started off by an "implosion" of members from Adelaide, Somerset East, Cookhouse and Cradock, with Cradock's Padre as chief spokesman.

From the *Western Province*, GEORGE reports that it has done its first corporate job in raising nearly £30 for the local child welfare scheme. The Group has found its feet, despite the fact that attendances at meetings are down to a dozen—but those really keen men. There have been four initiations at recent meetings. The L. W. H. seem also to be getting established in George.

In Natal NEW HANOVER Group has had a general change of office bearers with a result that most of the young blood now has a job. This Group, being in a small place where jobs are scarce, has been faced with the problem of finding jobs. Now, however, every bloke is working overtime fixing up their new dug-out. During last year the Group spent most of its time helping down-and-out cases. For one widow being left penniless, Toc H managed to raise £50 to give her a start in life. New Hanover is trying to start a "Grove" in Greytown.